



Department Executive Committee Meeting July 9, 2026

Meeting Began at 8:15 PM

Commander Jerome Goolsby - With the colors of our country being in the proper place, we will render the right-hand salute. Two.

At this time, Rachel Merlos will offer the invocation. Please uncover.

Chaplain Rachel Merlos - Almighty God and gracious God, we come together this day at this time and the business and promote program for the good of you, our country, and the American Legion. May each of us seek your wisdom and guidance and what we do and what we say and in how we act for God and country. We are at this meeting. May we discuss all matters with an open mind and the respect commanded to each as they express their opinion. May each of us understand our love for the purpose for which we meet at this time. Amen

Commander Jerome Goolsby - Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance; I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Commander Goolsby – Be seated.

Commander Goolsby - I now call this meeting of the Executive Committee of the American Department of Missouri to order. I remind everyone that this is an open session, and all legionnaires are welcome to attend. To speak on any manner, however, they must first obtain permission from their district commander. I would also like to remind you that when speaking that you mention your name, give your district, speak clearly and loudly so the recorder can hear you. Only one person speak at a time, please. Madam Adjutant, would you please conduct a roll call?

ROLL CALL – ADJUTANT FINLEY-JACKSON

Commander Jerome Goolsby -- Here

Sr. Vice Commander Alex Slocum - Here

Adjutant Lowry Finley-Jackson -- Present

Zone 1 Commander Daniel Sauer-- Here

Zone 2 Vice Commander Edward Weaverling – Present

Zone 3 Vice Commander Mark Reed --Present

Zone 4 Vice Commander Kevin McMeel – Here

NECman George Scarborough -- Excused

Alt NEC Kerry Boardman -- Here

Immediate Past Cmdr John Buckwalter -- Here

Past National Commander Joe Frank – Excused

Judge Advocate Christine Sapp – Here

Dept Finance Officer John Buckwalter --Here

Department Chaplain - Rachel Merlos - Here

Department Historian Chris Wallingford -- Here

Dept Sgt – at – Arms Albert Jackson -- Here

Dist 1 Commander David Blickhan – Here.

Dist 2 Commander Phyllis Campbell -- Here

Dist 3 Commander Ricky Volkman – Here

Dist 4 Commander Mark Hummer - Here

Dist 5 Commander Thomas Tanner -- Here

Dist 6 Commander Gary Grigsby -- Here

Dist 7 Commander Stephen Olson -- Present

Dist 8 Commander -Paul Backues - Here

Dist 9 Commander Roger Gansmann –Here -

Dist 10 Commander Arder Jordan --Here

Dist 11/12 Commander Darlene Coats – Here

Dist 13 Commander Paul Kohm – Here

Dist 14 Commander James “Jim” Walton - Here

Dist 15 Commander Milo Daniel – present

Dist 16 Commander Charles “Ron” Jones - Here

Dist 17 Commander Barb Riggle -- Present

Past Department Commanders

Joe Frank -- Excused

David Voyles – Present

Clark Pointer -- Present

Richard Heigert -- Excused

Dave Shafer – Excused

John Neger -- Excused

Dave Jennemann -- Excused

Charles Goodin -- Present

Lynn Dorrell -- Excused

Kenneth Goth – Present

Thomas K Goodin – Excused

Dennis Woeltje – Present

George Scarborough -- Excused

Elizabeth Gonzales -- Here

Gary Kellett – Excused

Kerry Boardman -- Here

Hallie Williams – Present

Gary Grigsby – Present

Rose Noonan –Here

Mark Clark - Here

Commander Goolsby - Thank you.. The Chair will entertain a motion for approval of the February 21st, 2026 DEC and close DEC minutes as published.

6th District Commander – Gary Grigsby – Motioned to approve.

15th District Commander – Milo Daniel – Second

Commander Goolsby – Motion has been made and seconded is there any discussion?

Commander Goolsby – All in favor signify by saying Aye, all opposed Nah.

Motion Passed.

Sub-Committee Report - Chairman Stephen Olson

Chairman – Olson – The Subcommittee was tasked by the commander on April 2, 2026. The task was, "I've advised by the Senior Vice Commander Slocum that we did not follow proper procedures according to the post officer's guide on suspending the Charter for Post 676, the last DEC meeting. Please contact the other members of the Sub-Committee and ask them to approve rescinding the action of the DEC to suspend the Charter of Post 676.

Via e-mail and phone conversations, the Sub-Committee met between the dates of April 4 2026 and April 22, 2026. The sub-committee members agree that the action requested by the District 17 Commander, for the Department to direct approval for closure of Post 676 due to issues discussed at the February 21, 2026 DEC was incorrect and not presented to the Department in the required manner. The complete guidance to close posts is contained in the American Legion Officers Guide, annex entitled UNIFORM CODE OF PROCEDURE FOR THE REVOCATION, CANCELLATION OR SUSPENSION OF POST CHARTERS, page 145. The complete process is detailed. It begins with "charges being brought forward must be in writing, and signed by respective Commanders and Adjutants of the intermediate bodies or Posts, as the case may be, and sworn to before any officer authorized to administer oaths." The text that following in the Annex lays out the process.

The other members agree that the action taken at the February 21, 2026 DEC was premature and that the decision should be voided. Committee member Scarborough recommended the following process (1) the rescission action to be formed into a formal resolution; (2) that the DEC be notified a motion to rescind will be made at the next formal DEC meeting, and (3) the vote on the issue at the next DEC.

I relayed this to the Commander on April 22, 2026. He responded with "Thank you I appreciate you and the Sub-Committee dealing with this."

The Department Commander followed up with a message to the DEC that: (1) all action from the closure vote at the February 21, 2026 DEC should be suspended and (2) that at the July 19 2026 DEC he will entertain a vote to establish a committee to investigate the problem in accordance with the guidance in UNIFORM CODE OF PROCEDURE FOR THE REVOCATION, CANCELLATION OR SUSPENSION OF POST CHARTERS.

Commander Goolsby – I need a motion to approve the actions of the Sub-Committee.

Motion to approve – 8th District Commander – Paul Backues

Second – 4th District Commander – Mark Hummer

Commander Goolsby – Motion has been made and seconded is there any discussion?

Commander Goolsby – All In favor signify by saying Aye, all opposed Nah.

Motion Passed.

Commander Goolsby - Thank you, sir. As a result of that, we're going to go ahead and this time follow the rule book for it. I'm going to ask that District 17 Commander Barb Riggle, Zone 3 Vice Commander Mark Reed, and Judge Advocate Christine Sapp via a three-person committee to review action, to review what's going on in post 676 according with the information that Steve just read. Mark Reed will be the chair for this committee.

Commander Goolsby - Recommendations for new post charters?

Adjutant Finley-Jackson - Commander, we have none

Commander Goolsby - Recommendations for post closures?

Adjutant Finley-Jackson - We have received recommendations for the following post cancellations. Post 12, Coffee Brothers Memorial, Vienna, Missouri, District 16. Post 239, Leroy Smith Peters, Carrollton, Missouri. District 2. Post 611 Ballwin Memorial Ballwin Missouri District 10. Post 442 Riverview Gardens Memorial Bell Ridge Missouri District 10. All paperwork has been turned in and it's properly submitted.

Commander Goolsby - Thank you. The chair will entertain a motion on whether to approve or deny the recommendation.

District 5 Commander - Tom Tanner - Motion to approve.

Zone 3 Vice Commander - Mark Reed - Seconds

Commander Goolsby - Motion has been made and seconded is there any discussion?

Commander Goolsby - All in favor signify by saying Aye, all opposed Nah.

Motion Passed.

Commander Goolsby - Recommendations for post mergers?

Adjutant Finley-Jackson - Commander, we have none

Commander Goolsby - Other Business

Finance Committee Chair - Brian Sapp - The Finance Commission budget meeting was held on May 9th, 2026, at 10:00 AM, at Post 5 in Jefferson City, Missouri. Members present, myself, Terry Lanning, Dave Voyles, Dennis Woeltje, Robert Kurt, Rose Noonan, Cary Kellest, AJ Noonan, Terry Beasley was not able to attend. Other guests in attendance were Department Commander Jerome Goolsby, Department Adjutant Lori Finley Jackson, Department Finance Officer John Buckwalter, Department Judge Advocate Christina Staff, and Department Senior Vice Commander Alex Slocum.

Our agenda items opened with discussion on membership as of May 9th, 2025. We were at 24,068 members, which we were at 94%. We discussed the following items that affected the 2025-2026 budget this fiscal year. that we will need DEC approval tonight. Those items are giving the American Legion Auxiliary \$1,500 out of our set aside money for this fiscal year. That motion carried. A donation to the foundation of \$13,500, which is basically an ALR pass through for the VCF. That motion carried. Donation to the POWMIA Museum of \$1,000. That motion was carried. A donation to the American Legion Riders National Children and Veterans Foundation of \$1,000 that motion carried and raise Post 1,000 dues to match 80% of the posts in the department to \$45 a year that motion carried.

There is a new Missouri law effective 1 January 2025 minimum wage raised to \$13.75 an hour and on 1 January 2026 an increase to \$15 per hour this affects one of our employees that is already a reflected in our 2026 and in the proposed 2027 budget.

On our 2027 budget, we discussed buying new computers for the VA&R at \$3,000. We do this each year. That motion carried with discussion. The discussion was on whether we should look into

leasing versus purchasing those computers and printers/copiers. We will have to look into the cost effectiveness of that option as to see if that's even a viable option. We discussed the department vehicles. We have three vehicles, the Commander, the Senior Vice Commander, and the Adjutants. They're all in good repair at this time.

We went over the salary raise. 2026 federal cost of living increase was 2.8%. The year before cost of living increase was 3.2%. The last two years we've recommended a 3% raise for the employees and that motion was made to give a 3% raise again starting on January 2027. That motion carried. We went over the five-year budget projection that shows we will not need a membership dues increase until 2031, according to what we are showing right now on the books.

Commander, I would ask that the items that we talked about, the American Legion Auxiliary \$1500.00, the donation to the foundation for the \$13,500.00, donation to POWMIA of \$1000.00, Donation to the ALR for the Veterans and Children's Foundation of \$1000.00 and raising the Post 1000 dues to match 80% of the post at \$45 a year. I would ask that you ask for that in a motion.

Commander Goolsby - The chair will entertain a motion that these recommendations be adopted.

Judge Advocate - Christine Sapp - Motion to Approve Finance Report

Commander Goolsby - Is there a second?

District 15 Commander - Miko Daniel - Seconds

Commander Goolsby - Motion has been made and seconded is there any discussion?

Commander Goolsby - All in favor signify by saying Aye, all opposed Nah.

Motion Passed.

Commander Goolsby - Charlie Goodin, we noticed that you brought in a special guest. Could you be so kind as to introduce this gentleman to all of us, please?

Past Dept Commander Charles Goodin - Our National Vice Commander for our area, Jerry Landkammer from Nebraska. On a little note, Jerry and I were department commanders together, and some years ago, his brother was the national vice commander for Nebraska. So they've been a legion family for a long time. Jerry.

National Vice Commander Jerry Landkammer - I just wanted to say thanks for the hospitality of being here. I'll say my main remarks for the meeting, I think, on Saturday afternoon at three, it's great being with the Missouri family. Thank you.

Commander Goolsby - Glad to have you here, sir. Now, I have a notice for everybody. District commanders should be on the front row for the opening of the convention. The general session will start at 1.30 p.m. Please be seated by 1.20 p.m. I will now ask that the department adjutant state the district caucus schedule.

District Caucus Schedule - Adjutant Finley - Jackson -- Okay, I know y'all caught that mistake, I'm going fix it. District 1 will be in the Areblan Room, which is right here. District 2 will be in the grand lobby, and you'll see your little sign out there. District 3 will be in the grand ballroom, front left.

District 4 will be in the grand ballroom, and you'll see your sign where you'll be. District 5 will be in the grand ballroom, left rear. District 6 will be in Sahara B. This one will be broken into two rooms.. District 7 will be in the Grand Ballroom front right. District 8 will be in the Maui front,. District 9, you have a change, you will be in the right rear of the Grand Ballroom. It says front there, but you will be in the right rear, because I don't want you in District 3 cahooting together. District 10 will be in the Bora Bora. District 11/12 will be in the Maui, Mohave Alcove, you'll see your sign out there. District 13 will be in the Sonoran. District 14 will be in the Paradise Lobby. District 15 will be in Sahara A. District 16 will be in the Maui Rear, and District 17 will be in the Kalahari. We're not using the actual Mojave room because the reception will be in there for the president of the auxiliary incoming auxiliary president.

Adjutant Finley-Jackson - Question? Yes.

4th District Commander – Mark Hummer - You did say District 4 is in the Grand Ballroom?

Adjutant Finley - Jackson - It's the Grand Lobby. You will see your sign out there. Remember the little signs we had from last year? They'll be out there again this year.

Commander Goolsby - Is there any new business to be brought before the committee? Good of the order?

Commander Goolsby - I will take a couple minutes and just say thank you to all of you for everything that you've done this past year. I think we've had a good year. We haven't gotten everything we wanted, but everybody that's sitting out there in the audience that's had this job will probably tell you the same thing. They didn't get everything they wanted. I think we've had a good year. I very much appreciate all the work that all of you did. For those of you who are staying on the DEC for the next commander, please give them a lot of support. It's the only way things are going to get done right is if you get your posts together and give support to all our programs. So the department commander has a good year. For those of you who are leaving, thank you so much for all that you did. Please go back to your districts, tell your posts that I'm very proud of everything that they did, large or small.

Commander Goolsby - The chair will entertain a motion for approval of mileage.

Department Historian – Chris Wallingford – Motions to Approval mileage

Commander Goolsby – Is there a second?

Zone 3 Vice Commander – Mark Reed – Seconds

Commander Goolsby - Properly moved and seconded, mileage to be approved. The chair reminds everyone that they need to sign and date the paperwork when they turn it in. Otherwise, you get no money. Unless there is a discussion, all in favor say aye. Aye.

Commander Goolsby - Excuse me. Did you have something you wanted to say, sir?

Adjutant Finley - Jackson - Commander, on that point and on behalf of the finance officer, John Buckwalter, if you submit, submit it early, quickly, and when you get your check, get it deposited.

Commander Goolsby - All in favor say aye. Aye. Any opposed say no. The ayes have it. Mileage payments are approved.

Commander Goolsby - Uncover. I call on our Department's Chaplin, Racel Merlos to give us the benediction.

Chaplain Merlos - Let us pray. Heavenly Father, as we come to the end of this meeting, we offer our thanks and praise to you. Thank you for your presence with us and for guiding our discussions. We ask for your blessing upon each participant as we depart from here. Lord, please keep a watch over our fellow legionnaires who couldn't be with us today, and we ask for our protection over our fellow service members. Amen.

Commander Goolsby - Cover. The colors of our country being in its proper place we will render the hand salute. Two.

Commander Goolsby - This meeting of the executive committee of the American Legion Department of Missouri adjourned.

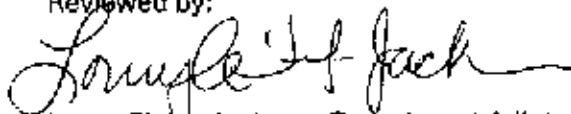
Adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Theresa Boss, recording Secretary.



Reviewed by:



Lowry Finley-Jackson, Department Adjutant